

HABS No. NC-1

HABS  
NC,  
93-WARTO,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
North Carolina District

[illegible]

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office

HABS  
NC,  
90-10000  
1-THE JOHN B. DAVIS HOUSE  
Warrenton, North Carolina

ADDITIONAL DATA: Memo to Mr. Verne A. Chatelain, National Park Service:

With reference to Mrs. Lizzie Wilson Montgomery's book Sketches of Old Warrenton, the identity of the house in question was established by a comparison of Mr. Haussmann's photograph with that of the oldest store and by the following description of the location of that store: "a story-and-half frame house on Front Street and North Courthouse Square, southwest of Mrs. Van William's home, and adjoining the Graham property, formerly the Somerville place...The first named store was owned by Peter Davis and conducted by him in the early years of the nineteenth century."...."In leaving the post-office for the south, the mail stage coach took a route due westward, passing the north window of the Davis store, and cutting a road through his store lot reentered the Louisburg stage road near the Foundry Branch."

After Davis' occupancy of it, the building was used as a residence until 1869 when it was purchased by W. A. Montgomery (the writer's husband). Montgomery converted the two north rooms into quarters for his own use, the front room being his law office and the back a bedroom. The two south rooms were similarly arranged and rented until 1870 to Charles A. Spruill and then to Dr. Willis Alston.

Mrs. Montgomery makes no further mention of the house. However, Montgomery practiced law in Warrenton until 1893 (with the exception of a three year interlude in Memphis), and I assume that he continued to occupy his first office. There is no indication of how the house was finally acquired by John B. Davis, or whether he is any relation to Peter Davis, the original owner.

Reference: Mrs. L. W. Montgomery, Sketches of Old Warrenton.  
Edwards, Broughton Printing Co. Raleigh, N.C. 1934.  
pp. 76, 77; 98.

Jane Dahlman, Junior Clerk,  
Branch of Historic Sites and Buildings

February 3, 1936.